



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

MAR 14 2014

Mr. David Fakouri  
Strategic Consulting Group, LLC  
LA Economic Foundation, Inc.  
16956 B South Harrell's Ferry Rd.  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70816

OFFICE OF  
SOLID WASTE AND EMERGENCY  
RESPONSE

Dear Mr. Fakouri;

Thank you for your February 10, 2014, letter and email to Craig Matthiessen with copies to Administrator Gina McCarthy and Assistant Administrator Robert Perciasepe of the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). As best as I can tell from your letter and attachments, you want to reiterate the need for EPA to take action regarding toxicity in the Gulf of Mexico (GOM), to allow the cleanup of the GOM threats using Oil Spill Eater II (OSE II), to support EPA efforts to correct the National Response Team (NRT) Bioremediation Fact Sheet from 2000 with respect to enzymatic agents, and to request again that EPA pay an invoice for Strategic Consulting Group's (SCG) billable time associated with the assessment of the concerns in the GOM and the need to use OSE II.

In my January 6, 2014, letter to you, I provided information regarding the completed and current assessment efforts with regard to toxicity in the GOM. I also clearly noted the commitment of the Gulf Coast Incident Management Team (GCIMT) to cleanup the Gulf Coast and all shorelines affected as a result of the Deepwater Horizon oil rig explosion and spill (see <http://www.restorethegulf.gov/>). I also clearly stated that the Federal On-Scene Coordinator (FOSC) is determined to continue response activities to remove all oil where it is technologically feasible, environmentally beneficial and safe for workers to perform recovery operations and that at this time, the Agency is not aware of any scientific studies or analyses that recommend the use of chemical agents, including bioremediation or enzymatic agents such as OSE II, to remove oil in the GOM.

I appreciate your support of our efforts to work with the NRT to review and consider revisions to the Bioremediation Fact Sheet. As mentioned in my January 6, 2014, letter to you, the NRT member agencies are examining the available scientific data associated with bioremediation agents, including enzymatic agents, and their mechanisms for oil spill remediation to determine what benefit is provided by bioremediation agents in responding to oil spills on water or elsewhere, and to determine the appropriate information and recommendations that the NRT should highlight for oil spill responders including where they are best used, depending on spill circumstances.

Finally, with regard to your request that EPA reimburse SCG for its billable time to research the Bioremediation Fact Sheet and toxicity concerns in the GOM, since EPA did not request SCG conduct this work nor did we establish any contract mechanism with SCG for the performance of such effort, EPA is under no obligation to reimburse SCG. It is my understanding that Mr. Matthiessen conveyed this to you during a conference call last year.

Thank you again for your letter. If you have any questions please contact Craig Matthiessen at 202-564-8016.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lawrence M. Stanton". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "L" and "S".

Lawrence M. Stanton, Director  
Office of Emergency Management